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PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.

VOL. XXVII.

MAY 3, 1912.

No. 18.

ORGANIZATION OF A SANITARY LEAGUE AT NORFOLK, VA.

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A sanitary league was formed by the citizens of Norfolk on March 26, 1912, with the object of improving the sanitary conditions of the city and suburbs.

The form of organization of this league differs in some respects from that usually adopted by such organizations, and as it appears to have certain advantages for effective work attention is invited to it.

For the purposes of the league the city and adjacent suburbs are divided into sanitary districts corresponding to the wards of the city, or of the suburb, when the latter is not within the city limits. For each of these districts there is a vice president who is in charge of all the work of the league in that district. He has authority to appoint committees and to inaugurate any measures that may seem desirable to carry on the work in his territory, reporting, however, to the executive council of the league.

By this arrangement each sanitary district is in a way independent, and in effect the league consists of a number of minor organizations each of which is composed of residents of their respective districts and whose work is chiefly directed to the territory with which they are most familiar and in which they have the greatest interest. It is also thought that this arrangement will stimulate a spirit of friendly rivalry between the different districts and thus develop more effective work.

The affairs of the league are conducted by an executive council consisting of the president, secretary-treasurer, one vice president at large, and one vice president for each of the sanitary districts, and four other members. This gives representation in the executive council to all the elements in the league. The council meets regularly twice each month, and more frequently if necessary.

The distinctive note struck by this league is the pledge required from the members that they will keep their premises clean, sanitary, and attractive. The following application for membership is printed on a card about the size of a postal card, but a little smaller to permit of its being inclosed in an ordinary envelope, and contains a coin-

carrier to allow a 50-cent piece (the amount of the annual dues) to be sent by mail:

Norfolk, Virginia,, 1912.

To the SECRETARY,
Sanitary League of Norfolk, Va.

SIR: I desire to become a member of the Sanitary League of Norfolk, Va. I promise to keep my premises clean, sanitary, and as attractive as possible. I will do all that I can to improve the appearance and sanitary condition of the block in which I live. I inclose 50 cents for annual dues.

Name.....

Address.....

Ward.....

Telephone No.....

Fill out and sign this card and inclose it with 50 cents to A. P. Pannill, secretary-treasurer, Health Office, Norfolk, Va.

The first efforts of the league have been directed to increasing the membership, and for this purpose the above card has been distributed to the officers and members, who have commenced a systematic campaign throughout the entire city to secure new members. As soon as a new member is enrolled he or she is furnished with application cards and joins in the efforts to get other members, thus creating a sort of endless chain arrangement.

It is the aim of the league to secure 10,000 members within two months. It is especially desired to induce women to become members, as the home is the special province of woman, and on her depends its appearance and sanitary condition.

The movement has aroused great interest throughout the city and suburbs, and has received the indorsement of the board of trade and business men's association, the industrial commission, the civic department of the woman's club, and the newspapers.

The actual work of correcting insanitary and unsightly conditions in each district is to be left to the district organization, though the league, through the executive council, will give such assistance as may be necessary.

It is proposed to have classes for the instruction of district vice presidents in the details of sanitary and beautification work, and these classes will also be open to any member of the league who may care to attend. There will also be frequent meetings of the district organizations at which the needs of the district will be discussed and measures adopted to meet them. Lectures and addresses illustrated by lantern slides will be given for the purpose of keeping up interest in the work, and to educate the members in various phases of public health and beautification work. Considerable stress will be laid on beautification work, as it is believed that it exercises a marked and beneficial effect on sanitary conditions.

As it is probable that other communities may desire to adopt the "Norfolk plan" of organization for a Sanitary League, the constitution and by-laws adopted by the Norfolk Sanitary League are herewith appended so that they will be available for other communities that may wish to use them as a model, with such modifications as may be considered desirable in each case.

THE SANITARY LEAGUE OF NORFOLK, VA.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

This organization shall be known as the Sanitary League of Norfolk, Va.

ARTICLE II.

Its objects are as follows:

- (a) The sanitary improvement of the city of Norfolk.
- (b) The education of its members and the public generally in matters of sanitation.

(c) To eliminate preventable diseases from the city as far as practicable, and to encourage the proper care of such cases as may occur.

(d) To aid and support local, State, and national health authorities in their efforts to protect the health of the people.

(e) To accomplish the above objects:

By encouraging the sanitation and beautification of the homes of its members, and the elimination as far as possible of flies and mosquitoes.

By stimulating interest in methods for prevention of disease, and the preservation of health, by lectures, publications, and other means.

By cooperation with other organizations having similar or allied aims.

ARTICLE III.

Meetings shall be held at such times and places as may be prescribed in the by-laws.

ARTICLE IV.

Ten members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE I.—MEMBERSHIP.

Any person interested in the objects of the league may become a member after election by the executive council and the payment of 50 cents annual dues.

SEC. 2. Each member shall be entitled and is urged to wear a button bearing the words, "Sanitary League of Norfolk, Va."

ARTICLE II.—OFFICERS.

The officers of the league shall be as follows:

(a) President.

(b) As many vice presidents as may be desirable. One for each ward is thought to be a good number, but if it is preferred the city may be divided into districts with a vice president for each.

(c) Secretary treasurer.

(d) An executive council, consisting of the president, vice presidents, secretary treasurer, and four other members, shall conduct the affairs of the league and report to the league at the annual meeting.

Vacancies on the executive council will be filled by the president.

SEC. 2. All officers shall be elected at the annual meeting, and hold office for one year, or until their successors are elected, and perform the usual duties of their respective offices.

SEC. 3. In the event that the association shall fail to fill any offices by election, the president is authorized to fill such offices by appointment, and the officers thus appointed shall hold office until the next annual meeting, or until their successors are elected.

ARTICLE III.—COMMITTEES.

The following standing committees shall be appointed by the president: (a) Finance, (b) sanitation, (c) publicity, and such temporary committees as may be necessary.

SEC. 2. The finance committee will have charge of the work of raising funds for the league, and will also audit the books of the treasurer.

(b) The duties of the committees on sanitation, of which there shall be one for each ward or district, to be known as ward or district committee on sanitation, to consist of three or more members, shall be to make a careful inspection of their respective wards or districts not less than once each month, noting all insanitary and unsightly conditions, and endeavoring to correct them. Frequent reports should be made by each of the district or ward sanitary committees to the executive council.

(c) The vice president of each ward or district is authorized to appoint a sanitary committee for his ward or district, and such other committees as may be necessary.

(d) The committee on publicity shall arrange for lectures before the members of the league, prepare for publication matters of interest to the league, and in general have charge of all matters relating to publicity.

ARTICLE IV.—DISBURSEMENTS.

Disbursement of the funds of the league shall be made upon the authority of the executive council. No money shall be paid out of the treasury of the league except upon the written order of the president, and such orders, with the receipted bill, shall be held by the secretary-treasurer as vouchers for his authority for making each expenditure.

SEC. 2. The books of the treasurer shall be audited by the finance committee just before the annual meeting, and a report made to the league.

ARTICLE V.—TIMES OF MEETINGS.

The times of meetings of the league shall be determined by the executive council. The annual meeting shall be held on the first Monday in March, for the election of officers and other business.

ARTICLE VI.—AMENDMENTS.

These by-laws may be amended at any regular meeting of the league, provided that a notice of the proposed amendment is given with the call of the meeting. A majority vote is required to adopt an amendment.